

THE ALMS-HOUSE DEPARTMENT.

What it Was and What it Is.

SCENES OF DRUNKENNESS AND DEBAUCHERY.

The Institutions Turned into Dram Shops.

SENSUALITY OF THE KEEPERS.

SITUATIONS BOUGHT AND SOLD.

Grave Charges against the Governors.

RIOT, RUM AND ROBBERY.

The Alms House Department of this city, after ten years of trial, has been found woefully wanting. Originating in the necessity which existed for the removal and reform of the old, imperfect, and corrupt system, under which we are told "licentiousness, dissipation, and filth reached a disgraceful height," it was intended to make it a model institution. With this view, ten gentlemen, among the foremost in the ranks of philanthropy in the city, were created a Board of Alms-House Governors. These gentlemen, honestly and earnestly desiring to discharge their duties to the public, framed a system of checks and balances as well calculated to commendate their wishes, and establish the Department upon a practical, non-partisan basis, at once safe, economical, and effectual. The members of the Board were themselves selected in equal numbers from the two great political parties, and the body was so constituted that upon their withdrawal, their places were to be filled by others of the same political preferences, elected by the people, so that neither party should preponderate, nor usurp the control. The law gave the Board the appointment of Warden, and these positions were distributed equally between the two parties. But it was also wisely ordained that the Warden should select and appoint all their subordinates, save the Clerk of each institution, who kept the accounts of the supplies furnished and used, so that the Warden were able to hold each individual under them to a strict personal account.

This systemized and compacted Department worked harmoniously, being administered honestly, and to the public satisfaction. But after a few years, when by the terms of its organization most of the founders had retired, to make room for successors selected by the people, a class of men began to seek admission to the Board who were actuated by other than unselfish, philanthropic motives—men, in fact, who seeing fat pickings in prospective, looked less at the honor of the position, and the good that they might achieve, than at the emolument that they might covertly earn from the children of poverty and crime.

Under the disgraceful administration of such unworthy persons the department to which, in its infancy and prime, strangers from far and near were directed by New-Yorkers with pride and pleasure, as a branch of our local Government, which was honestly and faithfully conducted by public-spirited citizens, in the midst of municipal shortcomings of the most flagrant character, has so far fallen from its high estate that its condition may best be expressed by saying, as was said of its predecessor, "licentiousness and disorder have reached a disgraceful height," and the public interest again demands a radical reformation.

The first step toward this state of demoralization was to over-ride that provision of the organic law which gave the Warden the appointment of their subordinates. This was not done openly, but was effected in secret, and in a manner quite as effectual as if the law had been repealed. Each institution was under the charge of a Warden, and each Warden was under the thumb of a Committee of the Board of Governors. The Warden found that the newly-elected Governors had incurred obligations to their partisan which they (the Warden) were expected to discharge. The result was that, to win favor with their Committees, the Warden weakly consented to appoint and remove at the pleasure of their superiors. Thenceforth all subordination and discipline, all order and system, all responsibility and accountability ceased, and chaos came. The history of the institutions for the past two or three years, if it could be faithfully presented, would show a degree of disorganization, a dissolute disregard of decency, of the most deplorable character.

In the palmy days of the Department, when people from abroad were courteously shown through the institutions, it was customary to extend to them a modest hospitality; but when the more staid and conservative members of the Board had been replaced by mere bar-room politicians, this custom degenerated into scenes of riot and intemperance. No longer seeking to instruct and awe the visitor with a spectacle of the sinfulness of wrong-doing, and the punishment awaiting transgressions against the laws; no longer pointing with pride to the generous manner in which the city provided for the outcast, orphan, and criminal of her population, they only sought to minister to their own depraved appetites, and to show those who went with them how low it was possible for the servants of the people to sink themselves. Thus, in the course of time, "a visit to the institutions" became synonymous with drunkenness and debauchery.

The Governors collectively, or in Committees, used to visit the islands to supervise the doings of the Warden, and direct the making of repairs, advise as to retrenchment and economy, and generally to see that the public service was faithfully performed. It is so doing they called for a carriage or two to ride to Sixty-first street or One-hundred-and-twenty-second street, and when their duty to the public was done, sat down to dinner with the Warden, and discussed their affairs over a generous bottle and a full-flavored Havana, the public did not complain. There were no hostilities on the islands, the bracing air thereabout was a wonderful sharpening of the appetite, and it was apparently no more than right that the Governors when on public service should eat at the public expense.

But, for years past, this order of things has changed for the worse. Instead of going to their work with a will, in quiet Committee, each member now holds it to be his right to visit the institutions whenever he pleases, whether business calls or not, and to take along companies of his friends, sometimes twenty or thirty in number, in carriages hired at the public expense, and to dine and wine them at the cost of the city, ordering the liquors and viands on his individual responsibility, and directing the Warden in advance to prepare the feast. Some of the Warden have been obliged to prepare three or four large dinners a day, nearly every day in the week, and on Sundays in particular, for the Governors and their friends, whom they must wait upon and serve like common lackeys. On these occasions scenes of disorder occur at which even the very convicts cry shame. Five Governors at a time, in the Penitentiary, have drank themselves drunk, and then, quarreling over their cups, they have called each other common thieves and whoresons, and wound up by getting into a fight, pelting each other with glasses and the remnants of their dinner, smashing the furniture, and then, banging their hats upon the lamps, they have rolled under the table to sleep off their debauch. It is by no means an uncommon occurrence for the Governors and their guests to be helped down to the river, and lifted into the boats, by the prisoners, being too grossly intoxicated to help themselves. At such times the guardians of our pauper and penal institutions are wont to indulge in language and behavior lewd and disgustingly obscene. Well may convicts remark, as they frequently have done to the Warden, upon witnessing such scenes, "Mr. —, it's pretty hard that I should be sent up here for six months for getting drunk on my own money, and be put under this keeping of those who get drunk upon other people's."

Governors, when making the tour of the institutions

with visitors, have often been known to step into the quarry, and, taking some striped stone-hewer by the hand, publicly recognize him as a friend and political ally, conversing and joking with him as an equal, and commending him as "a d—d good fellow" in the presence of Warden, guests, and prisoners. Such behavior, it must be obvious, cannot fail to prove destructive to the discipline which ought to be maintained among the inmates of a penitentiary. With the female prisoners the Governors are equally free, and in their madcap mood some of them converse with the women in a strain of revolting indecency. At their dinner parties it was usual for the female prisoners to go into the presence of the Governors and plead for their liberty. At such times, although the Warden might remonstrate, and remind the Governors that these women had been committed a dozen times during the quarter, and released by them only a few days before, it did no good. "Make out their discharge, Mr. Warden," was the usual reply. The effect of all this lax discipline and familiarity between prisoners and Governors may be imagined. A short time ago the law was amended, so as to also require the signature of the committing magistrate to the discharge; but it is no difficult matter for any Governor to obtain this for those whom he would befriend. For a while the Warden fought against this license, but, as it did no good, they yielded to circumstances.

When the Warden lost control over their subordinates, they had no means of enforcing their commands. Neglect of duty, insolence, and inordinance, consequently, characterized the conduct of the keepers toward their superior officers; and, taking their cue from the members of their patrons in the Board, in their intercourse with the male convicts they became familiar, and with the female prisoners shamefully profligate. In a number of instances, children, the offspring of this criminal intercourse, were taken by the Governors and placed at nurse in the city, the guilty keepers being retained in place, to continue their misconduct if they chose, the only punishment imposed being a fine of \$25, toward paying the outdoor nurses to whom the infants were confided.

The downfall of the rapidly-declining Department was consummated by a combination between a German Republican, two Americans, and three Democratic members of the Board, about a year ago, to override the organic law, and turn out of office (that is, to degrade, in the hope that they would resign) several of the Warden, who had the manhood to resist the encroachments of the Governors upon their legal prerogatives, and to rebuke their licentious conduct. These Warden were placed in subordinate positions, and their places given to creatures more easily controlled. How worthy were some of these successors may be inferred from the fact that the family of one of them has been obliged to complain to the Board of his criminal intercourse with the female inmates. Yet that Warden has not been removed. Another was the confidential clerk and tutor of a Governor who, when he came into the Board, could not read, nor write his own name, and was said to keep his accounts at home by chalk talks on his door-posts.

It is currently reported that the Governors are not above suspicion in the awarding of contracts, and that pottery, drain-tile, bricks, mortar, cement, lath, paint, dry goods, iron, and other articles are sold by them, directly, to the Department. A case has been reported to us, in which a certain firm, who for years had furnished goods for prison clothing, have recently lost it at auction. The explanation offered was that heretofore they had presented a set of blankets to officials in the Department, but this year, as they felt too poor, they did not do so, and the prison cloth was procured elsewhere. Another case was cited, in which commissions had been paid to officials, and upon the fact becoming known to third parties, the commission was refused. We cannot say how much reliance is to be placed upon these rumors; but take them in connection with the fact that the Governors rarely dine together at the institutions without openly charging each other with being "G—d—d thieves," and "bloody robbers," and that, too, in the presence of the prisoners who wait upon their gormandizing, and the inference is obvious. Is it not fair to suppose that persons who are elected to serve the public without compensation, who seek the office knowing the conditions, and yet deliberately go to work to eat, drink, smoke, and ride to the tune of \$15,000 or \$20,000 a year, will hesitate to further their own pecuniary interests by appropriating the public patronage at their disposal. Jolly gentlemen Governors, feasting on the public provender, living on the fat of the land, the pick of the market, and paying your poor pensioners in garrets and cellars a dollar a week, to feed and care for the fatherless babes and the forlorn little foundlings, whom hard fortune throws under your charge! A shameful spectacle, truly. Well might the Grand Jury present your conduct, as they did, and put you to the blush.

There is not an institution in the Department which is not provided with a pantry in which every Governor has a key, and in which the most costly wines, liquors, and cigars are kept for their use. The friends of the Governors not only feast, and get drunk in the institutions, but many of them pocket and carry off cigars by the bunch, and brandy by the bottle, these officers conniving at the theft. The Rotunda in the Park is notorious as a dram-shop, where at all hours of the day Governors may be found drinking at the expense of the Alms-House fund. With a full supply of champagne, liquors, and cigars, always at hand, and pressing invitations from the Governors to partake, it is not surprising that worthy officers at this place are acquiring habits which unfit them for business, and must in the end work their ruin. The best friends of these men see this, and deplore it. Perhaps the persons themselves see it too; but how can they hope to remain in place if they refuse to join their employers, those who keep them in place, when pressed to "take a drink"? It would be considered that they were "stuck up," they would be suspected of wishing to seem better than the Governors; their refusal would be taken as an assumption of superiority, and so they do as they can, perjure, rather than as they would. At this place on Tuesday evenings, after the exhaustive labors of the weekly meeting are over, the Governors, with their friends, sit down to a feast of good things, and then, under the exhilarating influence of the wine-cup and the seductive cigar, forget their promises of improvement, and record in private the bumper resolutions for retrenchment and reform passed just previously.

Let us suppose a company about to make the grand "tour of the institutions," assembled to take carriages from the Rotunda in the morning. An invitation to drink and smoke is the preliminary step. Then, entering the carriages, they are driven to Bellevue Hospital. Here a large hall, hung with portraits of past Presidents of the Board, is appropriated to the use of the Governors and their guests. A large buffet table contains an ample store of all kinds of potables, and that too of superior quality, for your Governor is a fellow of delicate palate, who will not be put off with any common beverage. This is the room in which the midnight carousals of the Governors and their friends are of common occurrence, and where many a sober, respectable man may take his decent into hopeless drunkenness. The visitors are received with an invitation to drink, and more cigars; this, with a glance through the Hospital wards, completes the inspection, and they walk down to the water and enter the boats for Blackwell's Island. The boats are manned by prisoners from the Penitentiary and vagrants from the Work-House. The men have been plied with liquor, by order of the Governors belonging to the respective Committees whose boats they row in. The work is given for a race, and the boatmen bend to their work under the stimulus of whiskey, when, as one or the other boat gains ahead, the Governors shout, "Bravo, Work-House," "Go it Penitentiary," "Bally, Alms-House," and cheer their men along, rewarding them at the end of the pull with more whiskey. The custom—and it is only of late years that it has become a custom—now is for the Committee of an institution, whenever it brings its boat into requisition, to give the

men liquor, although one of the strictest rules of these institutions is the rigid exclusion of all spirituous beverages from the inmates. How can it be expected that these people will respect the laws which the men set over them as the first to violate?

The visitors are shown over Blackwell's Island, through the Alms-House, Work-House, Lunatic Asylum, Penitentiary, and Hospital. If they are of practical tastes, although they do not belong to the medical profession, they may, if they choose, step into the theater of the Hospital, and the young physicians, who have been left in charge by the dissipated chief, will summon some of the unfortunate women sent there for treatment, and subject them to the shame of an examination, in the presence of the company. At least, this was the case not long ago, and not Governors alone, but the relatives of Governors took their friends thither to gratify a depraved curiosity.

Having looked over the island, the guests are escorted to the grand banqueting hall, a spacious saloon in the Warden's house, where the high revels are held. The floor is covered with tasseled pavement, the walls and ceiling are frescoed with all the colors of the rainbow, and the interior is lighted by a large stained-glass window. This and the Warden's residence must have cost something like \$50,000, although it would be very difficult, from the official reports, to determine how much was actually expended upon the building and its decoration.

Having eaten, drank, and pocketed as much as they please, the company again take the boats for Blackwell's Island, and race and shout all the way there. At the Nursery the boys are brought out and put through their evolutions, a few of the buildings are visited, including the school, then more liquor and cigars, and then return. By this time, as might be supposed, the Governors and their guests are not far from intoxication.

It often happens that the feasting at the Penitentiary is prolonged far into the night, and the paupers and prisoners in their cells hear the oaths and shouts, and boisterous mirth long after the hour of retiring. After that comes a midnight sail around the islands or a stretch to High Bridge and back by moonlight. How conducive to discipline and good order in the institutions such proceedings are may be imagined.

The children on Randall's Island have been brought to the city, at the bidding of Governors, and paraded with flying banners and to the music of fife and drum, at all hours of the night, for the benefit of fire companies, religious and charitable societies, and for political purposes. We are informed that when Gov. McInerney was running for Senator last Fall, he had them out at night, on Washington Heights, for his glorification. About the same time he took John C. Heenan and a number of other shoulder-bitters to Randall's Island, to review the boys. The youngsters were drawn up in line, and made to give cheer upon cheer for the Fenicia Boy.

Would these Governors treat their own children in this way? If not, how much the more tender ought they to be to the orphaned and destitute children of the city, whom Providence, and the people, have confided to their care.

The food of the paupers, lunatics, and prisoners is often unfit to eat. We are assured that meat has been served out in the Lunatic Asylum, Alms-House, Work-House, and Penitentiary in a nearly putrid state. All of this meat passes through the hands of an Inspector at Bellevue Hospital, and is approved by him before it is forwarded to the institutions. And yet it is rare that the contractor complies with the terms of his contract. From the appearance and quality of the meat it would seem as if he had gone through the markets, buying all the stale pious he could find. Sometimes he sends a very good article; but the reverse is the rule. Take for example the Lunatic Asylum, where the first quality is contracted for. Within a month, in cold winter weather, meat has been sent there in a stinky state. The food of the aged people in the Alms-House is also complained of as unwholesome and often uneatable. The same may be said of the articles supplied for the use of the sick. Sometimes the meat is sent back; but this is rarely the case. Who is to blame, the Inspector of Meat or the men who keep him in office? It would be thought very improbable that in a penal institution private piques would be allowed to influence the conduct of one having charge of the prisoners. Yet in the case of a person committed for libel, a Governor was heard to say to the Warden of the Penitentiary, "God—n—n him, give him bell!" And the poor wretch, who ought to have been sent to the quarry as brought him to death's door. We have good authority for stating that a sane man, charged with repeated forgeries, was committed to the Lunatic Asylum, with the connivance of the Governors, to escape the just punishment of his crimes, and kept there for long time, under the pretense that he was insane. He was spirited away, and taken out of the city recently—a gentleman who saw him in the Asylum having identified him, and told him he was not insane, but shamming, to escape the State Prison, where he deserved to be.

We think we have shown enough of the doings of the Governors of the Alms-House to satisfy the public that a reform in the management of the Department is imperatively demanded. From a high-toned, charitable Commission, it has degenerated into a miserable partisan machine, used by the members for the basest and most profligate purposes. We do not charge that all of the members of the Board are men of this stamp; on the contrary, we bear cheerful testimony to the fact that some of them are pure, high-toned, honorable men. But they are in the minority; they sit at the Board with men whose faces are habitually flushed with liquor stolen from the Poor-House and the Penitentiary—some of them half drunk when they come to the meetings, from the same source—and how can their voice be heard, and their votes be made to tell, against such a shameless crew. It is asserted that some of the Governors actually tax the Department with the carriage-bire of their families, and the cost of riding about to electioneer for their party.

To such a state is this noble charity reduced, that Keepers and Deputy Keepers, appointed by particular Governors for political services, refuse to obey their Warden, or to heed the behests of other members of the Board of Governors. Thus insubordination is the rule, affairs go on pretty much as they will, and all order, system, and government is rapidly passing away. One Governor, a week or two ago, saw a man who had been appointed Engineer at the Lunatic Asylum lying drunk near his engine, thus putting many lives in peril, and ordered him to his post. The fellow had been insolent and abusive before, but this time he burst into a torrent of oaths, and plainly told the Governor he might go to a very warm place—that Gov. B. F. Pinckney alone, who appointed him, was his master. It was only by the most persistent effort on the part of the Governor—who is one of the most respectable members of the Board—that this political pet was expelled from the island. Yet it was notorious that this man kept his own boat, and went and came at will as he pleased, regardless of the wishes of his superiors, sometimes going off with the Keepers—all getting drunk together, and rowing back at the dead of night. On one of these midnight trips recently they upset the boat, and but for assistance from the island, would have been drowned.

Places are created for friends and relatives. Take, for example, the reconstruction of the Island Hospital. A Superintendent of the masonry was appointed at \$6 a day, a deputy do. at \$5 a day, and a rigger at \$3 a day. The work of the Superintendent and Deputy was really done by the Architect, who got only \$3 a day. The deputy-Superintendent was removed the other day, after a severe contest in the Board, all pretense of needing his services having long since ceased. The building has been roofed for four months, yet the Superintendent of the masonry, who is a friend of one of the Governors, is still retained and paid, although he has nothing whatever to do. In erecting scaffolding, riggers are employed to put it up and take it down; but they are paid by ordinary builders only while in actual service. The more liberal Governors,

however, appointed Mr. Anthony Dugro's brother-in-law to that position, in the face of the fact that there are lots of sailors on Blackwell's Island who would do the work as well as he, and thus return something to the county for the cost of their trial, and maintenance during confinement; and they still retain him at the same salary, although for four or five months there has been nothing whatever for him to do, and from the beginning only work for a few weeks at the outside.

The lavish expenditure which has attended the construction of the Hospital is to be carried out to the end. Bids have been received for heating the building, varying from \$16,000 to over \$30,000. The lowest bidders are competent, capable men, with good securities to bind them in the faithful performance of their contract. Yet six members of the Board have combined and pledged themselves to vote for the \$30,000 bidders, and will probably rush the contract through next Tuesday evening. In contravention of the rules and custom of the Board, which prevail in all the other institutions, the keepers on Randall's Island, four or five in number, board at the expense of the Department, although by the terms of their appointment, they were to board themselves. The keepers in the other institutions are taxed \$12 a month for board. This favoritism is shown by order of the members of the Randall's Island Committee.

A week or two ago one of the employees on Randall's Island sold his situation to the son of a noted politician in Harlem. The place was worth \$600 a year, its selling price was \$150. A good farmer was lately deemed to make room for another Harlem man, who was no farmer, and had frequently been discharged from the island before, to be put in his place. Some of the matrons are quite as insolent and independent as the keepers, relying upon the friendship of their favorite Governors to keep them secure from removal. How prisoners are treated in the city prisons, let the reports of men, eaten up in their cells by rats, or dying of sheer neglect, testify; let the statements of sick people, sent from the prisons to die on the way to Blackwell's Island, or Bellevue Hospital, tell! A man who had his spine broken was some time ago laid on the floor of the prison van, and in company with twenty-four prisoners sent from the Tombs and jolted off all the way to Blackwell's Island.

The appropriation which this Board asks for the year 1860, is \$639,150, and \$107,049 for buildings making a total of \$746,199 for the expenses of the current year. In the opinion of those who have made careful institutions their study, at least \$300,000 of this sum could be saved by judicious management, the dismissal of useless people, male and female, who have been put into easy places to draw pay for political and other services, and the curtailment of the extravagant building expenses. Of course this would not allow of the profits supposed to be made by the Governors on contracts for meat, bread, milk, dry-goods, soap, pottery, iron, paint, bricks, lime, lath, and other articles furnished for the use of the Department by next friends. Why won't the Legislature give these Ten Governors an overhauling, or better yet, turn out the rascals, neck and crop, retaining only those who are not obnoxious to these charges of malfeasance, and erect a Board of Control, of three or five persons, from whom we may hope for a much-needed reform?

POLITICAL.

The Cincinnati Gazette, speaking of the statement put in circulation by a St. Louis paper that Edward Bates had never emancipated his slaves, for the best of reasons—that they had run away from him—says: "In the first place, there is no such paper in existence as 'The St. Louis Evening Post.' And secondly, it is a well-authenticated fact that Mr. Bates not only voluntarily liberated his slaves, but, as we are reliably assured, he liberally provided them with an outfit, and prepared them for the condition of freedom. One of his former slaves was well educated, and is now one of the ablest and most useful of the Christian ministers in Liberia. Any statement in conflict with these facts is sheer fiction."

A private letter from a distinguished gentleman in Washington says: "Fernando Wood says, if money will carry Connecticut for the Democrats, he will buy the whole State." Boys of Connecticut, do you hear that?

A Loco-Foco organ at Harrodsburg says that "the curses sent forth against President Buchanan will, like young chickens, go home to roost." We guess that on the 4th of next March old Buck himself, who is no "chicken," but a great cuss, will "go home to roost." [Pretence, of course.]

When we see "Wide Awake" Clubs forming in Connecticut, with a nifty little Constitution, containing the following: "Article 2. The object of this Club shall be to attend to the making of new Republican voters," our faith in carrying that State is made sure. Republicans should be "wide awake" everywhere.

From Colt's Pistol Factory, in Connecticut, there have lately been discharged 66 men, of whom 56 are Republicans, 8 Democrats and 2 Americans. Many of these were contractors, and among his very oldest and ablest workmen, who would naturally have been retained had charges been compelled by the lessening of business. Every contractor discharged is a well-known Republican. Among the first ten were three or four Vice Presidents of the Republican Club. But two or three of the Democrats were directly discharged by the Company; the others were in the employ of Republican contractors, and had to leave with them. In other cases, Democratic contractors had to discharge their men among the oldest and best hands, and had from a month to six weeks' work lying before them when they were told to leave. Mr. Colt is, by virtue of his business interests, an out-and-out Administration Democrat.

The landlords of Charleston are getting alarmed at the proposed change of location for holding the Democratic National Convention, and are disposed to come down in their prices. Two dollars a day, *The Courier* says, will be their maximum. Doubtful. Some of the Charleston papers intimate that, although Baltimore or any other city be chosen as the place of meeting, the Southern Delegates will assuredly assemble in that city, and proceed to make nominations for President and Vice President.

The Herald says that in view of the enormous prices which are to be charged for board by the hotel-keepers of Charleston during the holding of the Democratic National Convention, and the poor accommodations which are likely to be offered, those along the seaboard who intend to be present on that momentous occasion, we notice, are chartering steamers to convey them to Charleston, with such accommodations as will render the passengers, while in that city, entirely independent of the hotels and private boarding houses. Two steamers have been already engaged in this city, one in Boston, one in Philadelphia, one in Richmond, and one in Savannah. Probably one will also go from New-Orleans, and one from Mobile, so that the visitors from the West and North-west will be the only persons who will be subject to the exorbitant charges which have already been announced by the hotelkeepers.

The Democratic National Committee has determined to take no steps for changing the place for holding the Convention. It will meet at Charleston. The matter may be considered settled.

"Kramer Kan't Kom it—Kaim Kan—So Kan Kurin" is the heading of the article in *The Reading (Penn.) Journal*, in which is announced the election in that city of the People's candidates for Mayor, Treasurer, three Auditors, all the Select Councilmen, all of the Common Councilmen but four, both the Aldermen, and a majority of the Ward Officers. This was in Reading, the capital of "Old Berke," which was the Pennsylvania fortress of the Slave Democracy.

In Hackensack, N. J., a campaign club has been organized, called "The Bergen County Opposition Association." W. S. Banta, President; Speers Cummings, Recording Secretary; David A. Berry, Corresponding Secretary, and A. E. Fain, Treasurer, with

an Executive Committee of five, and one Vice-President from each township in the county.

Resolutions were adopted condemning the present Federal Administration, opposing the extension of Slavery into the Territories, advocating a Protective Tariff, in favor of the establishment of Agricultural Colleges, the granting of free homes to the actual settlers upon the public lands, the admission of Kansas into the Union under the present Constitution, and expressing entire devotion to the Constitution and the Union.

A suitable room has been provided, and meetings arranged for Thursday evenings of each week, until after the election in November.

The members of the Canadian Parliament are paid, by a new law, at the rate of \$61 per day for the first month, and after that a gross sum of \$200, whether the session is long or short.

There is one drawback to the Republican triumph in New-Hampshire. It settles the question against the nomination of Pierce at Charleston.

One of the main issues in question in North Carolina, at the approaching election, will be the manner in which slave property is taxed. The State Constitution declares that slaves shall be taxed as persons, and one side stands by this provision in the Constitution, and the other is striving to have this changed, so that slaves may henceforth be taxed as property.

There is one version of the scuffle in the Hall of the Capitol, yesterday, says *The Atlas and Argus*, but is curious, if true. The assailant, it seems, under advice of the lobby, kept his injuries cool till the accused member voted against the Toll bill, when, at a signal from the parties, the "injured" man pitched in with his fists. The Member had been told that this would be the consequence of a wrong vote. This is a new phase in lobby tactics and warfare.

The Newark Evening Journal (Dem.) gives up all hopes for the third party movement in New-Jersey, and says it is absurd for the Democrats to base any hopes upon it. "As matters stand at present, the only efficient live party we shall have to fight here is the Black Republican organization, and to this conclusion it is as well to arrive first as last."

Summing up the prospects of the coming Connecticut election, *The Norwich Courier*, a judicious Republican journal, observes:

"From all quarters of the State we hear of the extraordinary diligence of Republicans in preparing for the contest which is to take place a week from next Monday. The signs of success are without a cloud, and it is not in any local feeling, but with the honest conviction of the invincibility of its truth, that we state the belief that Connecticut will roll up such a majority on the 3d day of April, in favor of Free Labor and Free Government, as will effectually rebuke and put to shame Slavery-loving Democracy, wherever it is to be found."

The News thus cordially invites the Democratic crowd to the hospitalities of the ancient city of Charleston:

"What has her private hospitality to do with such a case—an intrusion upon her of an immense horde of men, intent on their own selfish ends, and indifferent alike to the people they offend, and to the interests of the thousands of them, too, of such character and manners that if they were to come here individually, again and again, it would never be thought by a respectable man of our city to admit any of them within his doors. During the presence of that promiscuous crowd, the private doors of Charleston will never have been so tightly shut and carefully guarded as now. She will confer more watching than hospitality upon the 'camp-followers' who have come to swarm at the assembling of a National Convention."

PERSONAL.

The Herald says that a subscription has been opened in Hayti for the benefit of the wife of the late John Brown, and *Le Progress*, a newly established journal, appeals most sympathetically to the public on behalf of the relief of "the martyr of Harper's Ferry," and fervently prays that the colored people of the whole West Indies will unite in making the tribute of affection a worthy and profitable one. Already they have raised nearly \$1,000. Grand masses and small ones had been performed for the welfare of his soul, and the papers contain invitations to another great funeral ceremony in honor of the deceased. "Like the State of New-York," says this public journal, "where this illustrious philanthropist was born, we will not fire salutes to speak our regret, but we will bow our knees before the Father of Worlds, to pray that the blood so gloriously shed may be the infallible forerunner of the liberty of our brethren—the object of our most constant wishes."

According to the London correspondent of *The Leeds Mercury*, young Charles Dickens, the son of the great Charles, is going out to India to manage an Indian agency for the firm of Baring Brothers, in which, says the correspondent, he has long held a responsible post, having been initiated into the mysteries of the merchant's craft by them. He has also another great friend in the financial world—Miss Burdett Coutts—who will back him, it is said, in any *per se* undertakings which he may think it wise to undertake. So, without much speculation, we may anticipate living, perhaps, to see the great house of Dickens as famous in commerce as it is in literature. Doubtless his father could, if willing, add to his store, for current report says he has made £70,000 in the last ten years.

Barry, the artist, while on a late visit to Boston, came into possession of a white linen tablecloth, woven fifty years ago, by the wife of Robert Burns, and spread on the oaken table in the poet's cottage, on these great occasions when the Edinburgh geanty deigned to honor their protegee's home with their patronizing visits. Late in the evening Mr. B. produced the sacred relic, which, of course, underwent the eager and reverential inspection of the company. Then, at the suggestion of a lady present, it was spread in an upper room; lemons and highland whisky were sent for, a Scotch punch was brewed, and over the tablecloth, hallowed by its associations with the peasant bard, the memory of Burns was drank by all, and Auld Lang Syne sung in due and ancient style.

The castle and domain belonging of old to Michel Montaigne, in Perigord, France, has just been purchased by M. Magne, a financier. The venerable doctor, keep, and tower, where the famous book of "Essays" was written by the profound and genial humorist, is exactly in the state he left it when he died there, with all the quaint inscriptions he carved on the oaken panels. The "Essays," published in 1580, must have reached England previous to Shakespeare's authorship of plays in 1589, and no book had so powerful an effect in molding the philosophy and forming the intellect of "nature's child" as this volume of old Montaigne, a copy of which bears one of the few autographs known to be genuine of Shakespeare.

Owen Stanley, the recognized King of a large band of roving Gipsies in Ohio, died recently at Madison, Indiana, and his remains were taken to Dayton, where they are to be interred next week with great ceremonies. Harriet Owen, a Gipsy Queen, was buried at Dayton, some two years ago, and the King is now to be deposited by her side. Roving bands of this singular people are gathering at Dayton, from all directions, to participate in the funeral ceremonies, which are expected to be of a curious and imposing character, becoming the interment of deceased royalty.

It was recently said that the Court of Wurtemberg has proposed to the Court of Berlin to confer nobility on Meyerbeer, the composer, if he could not obtain it in Prussia on account of his religion. He is a Jew, as everybody knows. The *Spencer Gazette* denies this rumor, and reminds its subscribers that Meyerbeer is already decorated with the Wurtemberg Order of the Crown, and consequently possesses the nobility attached to it.

The Leipzig Common Council has under heavy penalties interdicted the sale of cotton goods for ball dresses of a green color, they being dyed with Schweinfurt's green, which is arsenical of copper, and a deadly poison.

Of Heaven, nor of Hell; and on being asked what people meant when he had heard no profane language, he promptly said that he didn't know; which was undoubtedly true.

Margaret Dillon, an Irish domestic, was looking at the Pemberton mill when it fell. She was so completely paralyzed that, from that moment she lost the power of speech, and though she has attended to her work regularly since, she has not uttered a word!

Mr. John Monroe, of the firm of Messrs. John Monroe & Co., the well-known American bankers of the Rue de la Paix, has purchased a splendid mansion in the Avenue des Champs Elysees, which in five years will be worth three times the price he paid for it.

Mr. A. H. Ernst, long known as one of the most zealous and intelligent pomologists of Ohio, and for his exemplary work in private life, died at Cincinnati on the 13th of last month. His loss will be severely felt.

The Hon. Wesley Bailey, late State Prison Inspector, is about to take up his abode in Dakota, Iowa in company with his youngest son, he will publish a Republican paper.

Mr. Charles J. Faulkner, the new American Minister at Paris, has taken a suite of rooms for the summer at the Place de l'Arc de Triomphe, at the extremity of the Champs Elysees.

M. Lenormant d'Elolles, Baron de Tournesien, died at Tours recently; he was the great-grandson of M. de Pompadour's first husband.

Madame de Wilhirst of New-York recently appeared in opera at Berlin, and did not make a favorable impression, as *The Boston Traveller* says.

M. Guizot has gone to Nimes; his eldest son is about to be married there; it is the native city of the Girault family.

Mr. Evans, the dentist, has built a palace in the Italian style on the Boulevard de l'Imperatrice.

Miss Corbin of Virginia has married the Marquis de Montmorency, a wealthy noble of Normandy.

Three hundred women of the town of Aylesbury, England, have forwarded a petition to the House of Lords against the legalization of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, on the ground that such marriages are calculated to destroy the freedom of family intercourse. On the other hand, 428 have signed a petition in favor of the measure.

Souloigne is economical for an ex-Empress. He has charged his lodgings to save \$3 per month, and his wife does the family washing.

The friends of the Rev. T. Starr King, in his Society have subscribed \$2,000, to be presented to him on his departure for California, as a token of their friendship and regard.

A New-York correspondent of *The Charleston Courier* says: "Moses H. Grinnell, a leading partner, for a number of years, in the house of Grinnell, Mintram & Co., will soon withdraw from the concern, and return with his family to Europe, to spend considerable time. Mr.